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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,718	11/19/2003	Richard C. Ferri	POU920030185US1	6317

7590 07/11/2005

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EXAMINER

MARSH, STEVEN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3632

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/716,718

Applicant(s)

FERRI ET AL.

Examiner

Steven M. Marsh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is the third office action for U.S. Application 10/716,718 for a Supporting Adapter for Portable Computer system filed by Richard C. Ferri et al. on November 19, 2003. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 14, 2005 has been entered.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the cooperating openings in the portable computing device, for receiving the latches of the adapter, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate

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prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 2, 7-15, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,282,084 B1 to Goerdts et al. Clark et al. discloses an adapter with a support plate (bottom of 24) that has a top surface and a bottom surface opposite the top surface. There is a connector provided from the bottom surface adapted to mount the support plate to a support stand (at 22) and a plurality of latches (38) provided from the top surface, operable to secure a portable computing device to the support plate. The connector has a threaded stud (the screws that extend through 22 and the bottom of the plate). The latches can engage a keyhole in a bottom surface of a computing device and there is at least one pivot (52). The

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support plate has sidewalls (sides and back of 24, extending from the bottom) extending upwardly from the top surface that are dimensioned such that when the adapter is attached to a portable computing device, the sidewalls do not obstruct elements of the portable computing device normally available for use.

There is a plurality of interior electrical connectors and a plurality of exterior electrical connectors coupled to the interior electrical connectors, whereby the exterior electrical connectors are adapted to mate with a plurality of corresponding cables, thereby connecting the electrical connectors of the portable computing device to the corresponding cables. The adapter can also function as a port replicator or a docking station. There is also a connector (40) provided from the side surface that is adapted to removably mount the support plate to a cooperating support.

Clark et al. does not disclose the adapter being connected to a portable computing device with openings that receive latches on the adapter. Goerd et al. discloses an assembly that includes a portable computing device (12) and an adapter (16) engageably mounted to the computing device. The computing device includes cooperating openings (48) and the adapter includes a support plate with a top surface and a bottom surface opposite the top surface, and latches (24 and 44) provided from the top surface that engage the openings in the computing device to secure the computing device to the top surface of the support plate. The openings taught by Goerd et al. are not at the bottom of the computing device, but the location of the openings is a matter of engineering preference that would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention. It would have been obvious

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to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention, to have provided a portable computing device with openings to receive latches of the adapter as taught by Goerd et al., as the computing device of Clark et al., for the purpose of providing a means for preventing the computing device from becoming accidentally dislodged from the adapter.

Claims 3-6 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark et al. in view of Goerd et al., and in further view of Ford. Clark et al. in view of Goerd et al. does not disclose a tripod mounted to connector of the adapter. Clark et al. does disclose a stand (14) attached to the connector and the top surface of the plate faces away from the stand. Ford discloses the use of a photography tripod (94) as a stand for mounting a housing. The stand is mounted to the bottom of the housing (at 98) by a threaded connector and the tripod allows for the legs to be folded. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to have provided a tripod as the stand for the device taught by Clark et al. in view of Goerd et al., as taught by Ford, for the purpose of providing a stand that folds. Clark et al. in view Goerd et al., and in further view of of Ford does not specifically disclose threaded openings for receiving the threaded screws. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art a the time of the present invention to have provided threaded openings in the bottom of the plate to receive the threaded screws to provide a secure connection, as a matter of engineering preference.


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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Steven Marsh whose telephone number is (571) 272-6819. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.


Steven M. Marsh

June 29, 2005


ANITA KING
PRIMARY EXAMINER